Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle monitoring system for taking a fail-safe measure for a fault monitoring condition on a monitored image, comprising:

a camera device provided on a vehicle for taking the monitored image; and

a controller for judging an optical irregularity occurred on the monitored image by taking the fail-safe measure when a fail-safe measure requirement using a first parameter is met on the monitored image for a predetermined first period, and for interrupting the fail-safe measure when a fail-safe measure-release requirement using a second parameter is met within a predetermined second period after the fail-safe measure-interruption requirement has been met,

wherein the second parameter is different from the first parameter, and

~~The vehicle monitoring system according to claim 10, wherein~~ the first parameter includes at least a value obtained by normalizing an addition of a luminance-characteristic value on the monitored image by a shutter speed of the camera device and a specific number of data related to luminance edges on the monitored image and the second parameter includes at least the shutter speed and the addition of a luminance-characteristic value.

3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system according to claim 10, wherein each of the first and the second parameters includes at least a parameter related to luminance-distribution characteristics on the monitored image but different from each other.

4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system according to claim 3, wherein a parameter related to the luminance-distribution characteristics and involved in the first parameter is a value obtained by normalizing a luminance-addition variance or the maximum addition of a luminance on the monitored image by the shutter speed of the camera device whereas a parameter related to the luminance-distribution characteristics and involved in the second parameter is the luminance-addition variance.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A vehicle monitoring system comprising:

a camera device provided on a vehicle for taking an image to be monitored; and

a controller for taking fail-safe measures when a fail-safe measure-interruption requirement using a first parameter is met on a monitored image for a predetermined first period and resuming a function interrupted by the fail-safe measures when a fail-safe measure-release requirement using a second parameter different from the first parameter is met within a predetermined second period after the fail-safe measure-interruption requirement has been met, wherein the first parameter includes at least a value obtained by normalizing an addition of a luminance-characteristic value on the monitored image by a shutter speed of the camera device and a specific number of luminance edges on the monitored image and the second parameter includes at least the shutter speed and the addition of a luminance-characteristic value.

7. (Previously Presented) A vehicle monitoring system comprising:

a camera device provided on a vehicle for taking an image to be monitored; and

a controller for taking fail-safe measures when a fail-safe measure-interruption requirement using a first parameter is met on a monitored image for a predetermined first period and resuming a function interrupted by the fail-safe measures when a fail-safe measure-release requirement using a second parameter different from the first parameter is met within a predetermined second period after the fail-safe measure-interruption requirement has been met,

wherein the first and the second parameters include parameters related to luminance-distribution characteristics on the monitored image but different from each other and a parameter related to the luminance-distribution characteristics and involved in the first parameter is a value obtained by normalizing a luminance-addition variance or the maximum addition of a luminance on the monitored image by a shutter speed of the camera device whereas a parameter related to the luminance-distribution characteristics and involved in the second parameter is the luminance-addition variance.

8. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system according to claim 6, wherein the first period is variable in accordance with how accurately lane markings on a road in the monitored image are recognized.

9. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system according to claim 7, wherein the first period is variable in accordance with how accurately lane markings on a road in the monitored image are recognized.

10. (Currently Amended) A vehicle monitoring system for taking a fail-safe measure for a fault monitoring condition on a monitored image, comprising:

a camera device provided on a vehicle for taking an image to be monitored as the monitored image; and

a controller for judging an optical irregularity occurred on the monitored image due optical interference by taking the fail-safe measure when a fail-safe measure requirement using a first parameter is met on ~~a~~ the monitored image for a predetermined first period, and for interrupting the fail-safe measure when a fail-safe measure-release requirement using a second parameter is met within a predetermined second period after the fail-safe measure-interruption requirement has been met,

wherein the ~~first period~~ second parameter is different from the first parameter.

11. (Previously Presented) A vehicle monitoring system for taking a fail-safe measure for a fault monitoring condition on a monitored image, comprising:

a camera device provided on a vehicle for taking an image to be monitored as the monitored image; and

a controller for judging an optical irregularity occurred on the monitored image by taking the fail-safe measure when a fail-safe measure interruption requirement using a first parameter is met on a monitored image for a predetermined first period, and for interrupting the fail-safe measure when a fail-safe measure-release requirement using a second parameter is met within a predetermined second period after the fail-safe measure-interruption requirement has been met,

wherein the first period is variable in accordance with how accurately a lane making on a road in the monitored image is recognized.